

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A reverse rotation preventing mechanism for a diesel engine comprising:

a camshaft driven by a crankshaft through power transmission means;
and

cams provided on the camshaft so as to drive an intake valve, an exhaust valve and a fuel injection pump, respectively, wherein the cam for the fuel injection pump is shaped so as to include a maximum radius portion, a minimum radius portion, and a middle stage portion, and wherein the middle stage portion is radially larger than the minimum radius portion and disposed at a predetermined angle on the back side in the rotation direction from the maximum radius portion.

2. The reverse rotation preventing mechanism for a diesel engine according to claim 1, wherein the height of the middle stage portion substantially corresponds to the height of a plunger of the fuel injection pump when injection of the fuel injection pump driven by the cam is completed at the engine start.

3. The reverse rotation preventing mechanism for a diesel engine according to claim 1, wherein the height of the middle stage portion is determined so that the middle stage portion is prevented from interfering with a rotation locus of an end of a connecting rod.

4. The reverse rotation preventing mechanism for a diesel engine according to claim 1, wherein a boundary position between the middle stage portion and a small radius portion is disposed adjacent to a position for starting the opening process of the intake valve.

5. The reverse rotation preventing mechanism for a diesel engine according to claim 1, wherein a boundary position between a portion where the radius is gradually reduced from the maximum radius portion and the middle

stage portion is disposed adjacent to a position for starting the opening process of the exhaust valve.